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U.S. pulls rights motion

GENEVA, March 7 (AFP) — The United States today called off its offensive against the Soviet Union at the United Nations Human Rights Commission. But prior to withdrawing a proposal to seek information from Soviet authorities on the fate of several well-known Soviet human rights activists, the U.S. vigorously defended the right to intervene on behalf of dissidents the world over without compromising debate. The United States, said its delegate, agreed to withdraw the proposal after the commission scheduled three working sessions next week on the question of dissidents in the Soviet Union -- a topic never before taken up by the U.N. body.

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Relief aid flows into Romania

GENEVA, March 7 (R). — A big international relief operation cutting across political differences got under way today for victims of last Friday's earthquake in Romania.

One of the first cargoes of supplies left Vicenza, northern Italy, aboard a NATO military aircraft. A NATO spokesman said the consignment of anti-miotics was donated by the Southern European Tactical Air Force (SETAF).

Romania is a Warsaw Pact country although its participation in the alliance generally regarded as nominal.

About 2,500 blankets and 700 bundles of clothing were also on the way to communist Romania from the Greek Orthodox Church in Athens.

Other supplies, from medicines to baby foods and milk powder, left for Bucharest in response to Romania's appeals for help.

In Amman, Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Saturday made a donation of JD 10,000 to Romania's ambassador for the victims of the earthquake. He heard from the ambassador details of the disaster and offered his heartfelt sympathy, as well as that of the Jordanian government and people, to the Romanian government and people.

In another meeting in Amman Monday, acting Foreign Minister Adnan Abu Odeh told the Romanian ambassador that the Jordanian government will provide medical assistance in kind to the Romanian people.

The largest consignment of aid has so far been promised by East Germany, a partner of Romania in the East European COMECON grouping.

Israel is sending tomorrow a shipment of medicines, diabetic rods and sterilised fluids worth about \$10,000, a press conference was told in Tel Aviv. Romania is the only communist country to have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Other supplies on their way include surgical, x-ray and anaesthetic equipment, power generators and medicines, part of two million mark (\$400,000) package being prepared by West Germany.

Government offers of help have also flowed in from France, Greece and Britain, which is sending aid worth \$20,000 Romania tomorrow.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Bucharest said Romania has appealed for a wide range of medical supplies, including mobile operating theatres, and a S. cargo plane was due there today.

The first foreign relief, from the Austrian Red Cross, arrived last night, two days after the earthquake struck. Fifty people were also killed in Bulgaria in last Friday's earthquake centred in Romania, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported today from Sofia.

Reporting a government report, the agency said officials feared the death toll could rise to more than 100 when rescue work is completed.

In Bucharest, rescue workers using mechanical excavators and their bare hands desperately dug through mountains of rubble yesterday and today seeking survivors.

Thousands are now feared have died across Romania. The last count, the known official death toll was over 1,000 and more than 5,000 people are listed as injured.

About 30,000 dwellings were destroyed across Romania. It also became clear today that the earthquake had dealt a crippling blow to the country's economy.

More than half of 70 industrial plants in the oil-centre of Iasi are known to have been damaged.



SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS -- His Majesty King Hussein, with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Chief of the Royal Court Shaheed Hamid Sharaaf sitting behind him, are seen during meetings of the Afro-Arab summit in Cairo Monday. Unidentified African participants are in the foreground.

Rabin meets Carter, other U.S. officials during Washington visit

WASHINGTON, March 7 (Agencies). — American President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met for 90 minutes here today seeking common ground on which Middle East peace negotiations could resume.

Welcoming Mr. Rabin, who arrived here Sunday on a three-day visit, Mr. Carter said Israel should be guaranteed "defensible borders that will give a sense of security for this young country in the future." Mr. Rabin stressed what he called Israel's will to work for Middle East peace and well being, "a will that is strengthened and encouraged by the special relationship that has long marked the ties between our two peoples."

The question of emigration of Soviet Jews was also due to be discussed. Greeting Mr. Rabin on the White House lawn today, Mr. Carter said 1977 "might very well bring a major step forward to an ultimate and permanent peace."

Israeli officials said this was the first time a U.S. president had spoken of Israel's need for "defensible borders."

Mr. Rabin leaves Washington Wednesday for visits to Florida and New York, before returning home next Saturday.

State Department officials were unable to say at once whether Mr. Carter's use of the phrase represented any change in U.S. Middle East policy.

Both Mr. Carter and Mr. Rabin may meet again before the Israeli premier leaves Wednesday evening.

Earlier today, Mr. Rabin lunched with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and met Defence Secretary Harold Brown, and was attending a working banquet given by President Carter in the evening.

Mr. Rabin had said before leaving Tel Aviv Sunday that no important decisions would be made during his trip, but he was optimistic his first meeting with Mr. Carter would help

improve Israeli-American relations.

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Israeli troops bust up fresh demonstrations in Ramallah

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank, March 7 (R). — Israeli troops today hurled tear gas to break up a demonstration by hundreds of Arab youths in sympathy with a hunger strike by Palestinian guerrillas in Israeli jails.

Students carrying Palestinian flags and singing nationalist songs gathered in the town's central square and hurled stones at Israeli soldiers and local merchants who had to close their shops, military sources said.

Israeli troops broke up the demonstration and arrested dozens of demonstrators, the sources said. There were no casualties, but the windows of two passing Israeli cars were smashed.

Meanwhile, more than 100 prisoners serving sentences on "security" charges at Jenin prison on the West Bank joined the hunger strike started by 450 prisoners at Asqalon jail in protest against prison overcrowding and degrading conditions.

The Asqalon prisoners renewed their strike last week, saying prison authorities had not fulfilled a promise to improve conditions after they ended a five-week hunger strike in January, Arab sources said.

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Historic Afro-Arab summit opens in Cairo with calls to act on "common causes"

CAIRO, March 7 (Agencies). — Leaders of 60 Arab and African countries with a total population of over 400 million got together here today to lay the foundations for organised, long-term political and economic co-operation between the Arab World and black Africa.

The need for unity to achieve just solutions to the problems of Palestine and Southern Africa, and to bolster the Third World as a whole in its struggle for economic development and a fair international economic order, were the key themes of the inaugural session of the Afro-Arab summit.

The three-day conference, opened by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt late this morning, brings together the heads of state or their representatives, of all members of the Arab League, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), with the sole exception of Malawi.

Saudi Arabia stunned the gathering by announcing it would grant \$1 billion for African economic development.

Right from the start of his welcoming statement, Mr. Sadat stressed the meaning of political solidarity by offering one million dollars as a gift to African liberation movements, and also said Egypt had made its arms stockpiles available to African freedom fighters.

Tunisian Premier Hedi Nouri, speaking as current President of the Arab League, said Arabs and Africans had experienced the same destiny of "colonial domination and racism" and were fighting the same struggle against economic underdevelopment.

Mauritius Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, addressing the audience of kings, presidents, emirs and premiers, in his capacity as host of last July's OAU summit, said the Palestinians must achieve their "legitimate rights" and pledged the support of the whole of

African for those who "fight for their freedom."

Israel and the "racist regimes" of Southern Africa came under sharp attack from all speakers at the nearly two-hour inaugural session in the crowded People's Hall.

President Sadat affirmed that Israel was "blocking the road to a just peace" and "rejects the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to establish their own independent state." He warned that "imperialist and racist forces" were poised to open new fronts in Southern Africa.

His Majesty King Hussein will address the summit tomorrow morning. This evening's closed summit session lasted for 3 1/2 hours.

Prince Saud Al Faysal, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, announced that his country would allocate \$1 billion for economic development in Africa.

Prince Saud said that the bulk of the allocation would be channelled through the Saudi Development Fund and passed on to competent Arab and African bodies. The Saudi minister said the funds included two million out of \$5 million that Arab foreign ministers yesterday pledged to contribute to African liberation movements.

In a political statement to be adopted by the summit, Arab and African leaders affirm that the Middle East and Southern Africa will henceforth be considered as common "Afro-Arab causes."

However, the need for close economic cooperation and solidarity was also strongly emphasised at the opening session. Mr. Sadat, host of the unprecedented conference and leader of the country which forms the natural bridge between Africa and the Arab World, said the two communities of nations and the rest of the Third World must achieve control of their own natural resources and put an end to foreign exploitation.

William Eteki, Secretary-General of the OAU, said: "The negotiating power of the Third World as a whole depends upon Afro-Arab solidarity."

Commenting on plans for co-operation between the two sides in the economic and financial field, he said the time had come to "translate words into deeds, principles into programmes and programmes into concrete projects."

The economic declaration agreed upon yesterday by the foreign ministers called for "promoting the placement of Arab capital in African countries, whether in the form of direct investments, loans or deposits," as well as boosting the capital available to two continental banks based in Khartoum and Abidjan.

President Leopold Senghor of Senegal said today that laying down the foundations of real Afro-Arab economic cooperation could pave the way for tripartite cooperation with Western Europe.

He also told the summit that at first cooperation between the Arab World and Africa could take the form of preferential trade agreements and joint prospecting for natural resources.

He stressed the need for a "real" programme of Afro-Arab cooperation and emphasised the importance of regional projects and projects aimed at increasing the agricultural output of African countries.

Smith forms war ministry

SALISBURY, March 7 (R). — Prime Minister Ian Smith today set up a new ministry of combined operations to direct the fight against intensified black nationalist guerrilla attacks. A government statement said the Transport and Power Minister in the white minority government, Mr. Roger Hawkins, 61, will hold the new portfolio. He will also be Deputy Chairman, under Mr. Smith himself, of a war council which takes the final decisions on strategy in the campaign against the guerrillas. Informed sources said the ministers of defence, law and order and internal affairs will be responsible on war matters to Mr. Hawkins. The sources also expect Mr. Smith to appoint a new supreme military commander soon.

Price : 50 fils

Kaddoumi lauds Soviet ties, rejects recognition of Israel

KUWAIT, March 7 (R). — Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine resistance movement's "foreign minister", in an interview published here yesterday, called for strengthening ties with the Soviet Union to face the United States which he said was still adopting a hostile attitude towards the Palestinians.

Mr. Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Political Department, told the daily newspaper Al Watan the United States continued supporting Israel against the Palestinians.

He accused the U.S. of "exercising pressure on Europe so that it does not adopt a stand in the interest of the Arab cause."

It was necessary to strengthen ties with the Soviet Union "with the aim of confronting America."

Mr. Kaddoumi said he believed the possibility of war exceeded prospects for peace, which he considered as nil this year.

Mr. Kaddoumi said that recognition of Israel was out of the question, and the Palestine National Council would not be discussing any amendment to the PLO charter. The council is due to convene in the Egyptian capital on March 12.

Mr. Kaddoumi has been in Cairo attending the Afro-Arab foreign ministers' meeting.

In an interview with Newsweek magazine released in New York today, Mr. Kaddoumi, asked if the National Council would amend the part of its charter which denies recognition of Israel, said: "It is not a possibility. It is impossible. And we don't expect any discussions or proposals on this."

Mr. Kaddoumi also rejected an idea proposed by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, that the Palestinians should link up in some way with Jordan before a reconvened Geneva conference on Middle East peace.

"It is not possible before Geneva," he said. "It is not possible before the establishment of an independent (Palestinian) state."

"We are insisting on a separate delegation," he said. "And to attend at the outset of the Geneva conference, and then to participate in all of its works."

Inter-Palestinian clashes leave many dead in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT, March 7 (R). — Rival Palestinian factions clashed yesterday and early today in southern Lebanon near the Israeli frontier and official sources estimated casualties at 40 to 50 dead and wounded.

Ambulances trying to reach the town of Nabatiyeh where the fighting occurred were fired on and forced back.

Fighting broke out yesterday between factions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Commandos of the pro-Syrian Saïqa organisation intervened, local residents said.

Today, the Saïqa forces had won control of offices in Nabatiyeh used by the Palestinian Rejection Front, the residents added.

The little stone-built market town, less than 15 kms from the Israeli border, is a key point for Palestinian forces deployed in southern Lebanon.

Further south along the border, some of spasmodic fighting between Palestinians and rightist Lebanese forces, the situation was reported calm.

Efforts have been made to bring about a truce in order to give Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, now in Cairo for the Afro-Arab summit, time to work out a lasting solution to the security problem there.

He is seeking the help of other Arab leaders in finding a frontier security force acceptable to Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians and Israelis alike.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbasa reported today that President Sarkis will seek to convene a restricted Arab summit in Cairo to discuss the situation in south Lebanon and financial aid to rebuild his war-torn country.

Quoting informed sources in Cairo, the paper said the meeting sought would be on the pattern of the restricted Riyadh summit conference on Lebanon held last October.

Al Anbasa also quoted Lebanese Interior Minister Salah Salaman as saying the problem of the south was an Arab responsibility.

In the voting, Prime Minister Bhutto and his Pakistan People's Party convincingly swept back to power. With counting well over half finished, the PPP had a virtually unassailable lead and political observers predicted it would win by a surprisingly wide margin.

Two people died today and 26 others were injured in Sukkar where police used tear gas and fired on crowds to clear the streets. Polling was halted, and the opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) called for a boycott of polling stations.

ISLAMABAD, March 7 (AFP). — Sporadic violence spilled over into voting in Pakistan's general election today, after marring a 42-day campaign in which at least seven people were killed. But the general situation, particularly in the countryside, was reported under control.

Other less serious incidents were at Lahore, and Lyallpur in the Punjab. In the Islamabad area, the atmosphere was peaceful, turnout seemed heavy and observers said polling appeared free and honest.

About 30 million voters were to elect a 200-seat National Assembly for five years, and the main contest was between Mr. Bhutto's PPP and the opposition PNA in which nine individual parties are grouped.

The existence of a strong and at least temporary unified opposition to Mr. Bhutto was a new phenomenon. Only two months ago, when the election was called, nobody thought Mr. Bhutto was running any risk.

In the last assembly the opposition parties had less than one tenth of the seats, but were today expected to return with between 30 per cent and 35 per cent of the vote. Several ministers also risked losing their seats.

Arafat lays Israeli acts before summit

CAIRO, March 7 (R). — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today accused Israel of committing "savage crimes of aggression" in southern Lebanon to create an explosive situation in the Middle East.

In a speech prepared for delivery at the Afro-Arab summit here, Mr. Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said that the Israelis were bombing seven Lebanese villages and Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon.

"...In south Lebanon, the Zionists are going on with their aggressive policy against seven Lebanese villages and Palestinian refugee camps," he said.

"They are bombing the villages and destroying local houses, using local slogans to mask their savage crimes of aggression, thereby creating an explosive situation in our region."

Mr. Arafat condemned what he described as an "unholy alliance" between Israel, South Africa and Rhodesia.

"We meet today for the sake of liberating man from racist ideologies and the practice of hateful racial discrimination as represented by the unholy alliance between Pretoria, Salisbury and Tel Aviv," he said.

Mr. Arafat, who leads the PLO delegation at the summit, said the organisation's membership in the Arab League and its observer status in the Organisation of African Unity reflected the "profound understanding by both the Africans and the Arabs of the role of Palestine ... in Afro-Arab solidarity."

He called on delegates to "stick to your revolutionary commitment to support our struggle (that of the Palestinians) which is inseparable from your struggle."

Jordan, PLO, Egypt, Syria mini-summit is reported

CAIRO, March 7 (AFP). A mini-Arab summit will sit in Damascus at the end of March attended by H.M. King Hussein, Egyptian and Syrian Presidents Anwar Sadat and Hafez Assad, and Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Saudi Arabian News Agency reported today from Cairo.

The meeting will take place before President Sadat leaves for the United States, the agency said.

Mahmoud Riad, Secretary General of the Arab League, said big powers which were supplying arms and financial aid to "racist and aggressive regimes" were responsible for

ensuring their respect of international law.

Mr. Ramgoolam issued a "solemn appeal" to the United States to bring about the Liberation of "occupied Arab lands".

The heads of state were to consider three documents -- thrashed out and finalised yesterday by Afro-Arab foreign ministers -- when they went into closed session tonight.

At least 23 heads of state and six heads of government were present for the talks, held in a long oblong hall at the Arab Socialist Union building, beneath an orange and green symbol showing Africa and the Middle East in black.

His Majesty King Hussein will address the summit tomorrow morning. This evening's closed summit session lasted for 3 1/2 hours.

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Intensive contacts pave way for Palestinian meet

DAMASCUS, March 7 (R). — Palestinian leaders are engaged in intensive behind the scenes contacts to try to reach agreement on the new high command of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) expected to emerge later this month.

The Palestine National Council, the movement's parliament in exile, is meeting in Cairo on Saturday and must name a new Executive Committee to run its affairs on a day-to-day basis.

Well informed sources said the contacts were concentrating on the speakership of the National Council and the membership of the executive, which is expected to be 15 strong. The last Executive Committee, formed in 1974, had 14 members.

Official PLO sources said the council would not modify the organisation's charter -- an Israeli demand -- nor recognise Israel.

The current Speaker of the National Council, Mr. Khaled Al Fahoum, said the dialogue with Jordan, begun late last month, was not now expected to resume until after the national council meeting. Earlier he had hoped to go to Amman again before Saturday's meeting.

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King Khaled has successful 2nd operation

RIYADH, March 7 (AFP). — King Khaled of Saudi Arabia underwent successful surgery of the thigh at a London clinic today, a royal spokesman announced.

The operation, said by the spokesman to be the second and last on the king's left thigh, followed an earlier one on Feb. 15.

"The operation went well and the state of the king's health is very satisfactory," the spokesman added.

In Karachi about 100 people were injured after minor clashes erupted at women's pol-

ECONOSCOPE By Jawad Ahmad

A Representative Office is Better than a Branch If.....

The Jordanian Council of Ministers approved a regulation allowing foreign banks and foreign financial companies to open representative offices in Jordan. Only those banks and companies which do not, or do not intend to, open branches in Jordan are allowed to have representative offices in Amman.

The functions of representative offices vary from one to another depending on the volume of business they undertake in Jordan. However they usually carry out more work than a correspondent and less work than a branch.

A representative office does not accept deposits nor does it issue loans. But it can arrange such services between Jordanian clients and foreigners working in Jordan on one side and the company or bank they represent on the other.

They may help finance certain Jordanian-based projects, by supplying their company or bank with information on the finance-seeking projects. Thus, in addition to their work on mediators, they serve as intelligence units to the firms they represent.

A foreign bank, or a foreign financial company may prefer to establish a representative office rather than a branch on several grounds.

First, if they are convinced that a branch may not secure sufficient volume of business.

Second, the cost of opening a branch is usually much greater than a representative office. This is particularly true in Jordan where office space and bank employees are expensive to get.

Third, if the host country's regulations are more hospitable to offices than branches. In

Jordan, for instance, the Central Bank and the concerned laws and regulations do exactly that. To open a branch in Jordan, the concept of reciprocity must be observed, i.e. a country which wants to open a branch in Jordan must allow a Jordanian bank to open a branch in it.

Fourth, the license fee of a representative office is JD 1000 a year. But a bank branch must pay JD 100,000 before it is licensed.

The recent expansion in Jordan's financial and monetary market makes the idea of a representative office quite promising and befitting. Moreover, Jordan is growing fast as a financial and commercial center. In addition, Jordanian investors are increasing their international borrowings.

Political stability and economic prospects serve as another encouraging factor. The relations which tie Jordan with other rich Arab countries and its geographical proximity to them widens the market in face of representative offices.

It is certainly obvious that a representative office is less expensive, more efficient and less complicated than a branch. On the other hand, the volume of business warrants something larger than the services offered by a correspondent.

However, a representative office must not engage in any activities which are considered inimical to the economic interests of Jordan. Otherwise, the office will be closed. Jordan's laws, regulations and business offer every chance of success. It is only fair to live and let live.

Gulf States invest heavily in futuristic fresh water systems

BAHRAIN, March 7 (R). — Futuristic-looking towers, whose designs appear inspired by Islamic minarets, rocket launchers or down-to-earth mushroom domes, dominate the skylines of most of the booming cities of the Gulf.

They are water towers built by the thirsty inhabitants of this region whose parched sands have produced some of the 20th century's millionaires.

Water is the obsession of desert peoples, and the majority of the Gulf peoples were nomadic tribesmen who roamed the sandy wastes with their herds until oil wealth attracted them and a collection of foreign advisers, workers and fortune hunters to the previously poverty stricken cities.

Billions of dollars have been spent over the past few years on providing "sweet" water to these cities, to the bedouin and their camels, to experimental farms, and to new heavy industries being set up along these once pirate-infested shores.

Paradoxically the few states where water is found are the ones with little or no oil, such as Bahrain, Oman and some of the smaller states of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

But the majority of the water needs of the Gulf come from huge desalination plants which remove the salt and make sea water suitable for drinking.

Even Bahrain, the small island-state believed by some to have been the original garden of Eden, is now running short

of water and is having to resort to desalination.

But the tiny and oil-free UAE state of Ajman has found a useful source of income in exporting drinking water from an abundant source.

With the help of a company which bottles one of France's famous mineral waters it is marketing its water throughout the Gulf in plastic bottles under the brand name Guifa. At a dollar for a litre-bottle, it is probably netting much more per gallon than its neighbours earn for their oil.

Most Gulf States have developed a basic infrastructure of desalination plants, pipelines and reservoirs.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter with a vast territory and a population of about seven-million, plans to spend 13 billion dollars on water projects in its current five-year plan, of which more than one billion dollars is due to be spent this year.

The provision of water and electric power go hand in hand in the Gulf as the water pumped into desalination plants is also often used to generate electricity.

The peninsula state of Qatar, with an estimated income of about two billion dollars a year for some 50,000 to 80,000 citizens, is planning to spend about 400 million dollars on water and power projects this year.

Abu Dhabi, with three times the income, and a few thousand more citizens, is planning to spend only slightly less on such projects.

Kuwait this month opened a group of three slim water towers inspired by Islamic architecture in Kuwait City, the best of which has a rotunda platform on top containing restaurant. Kuwait plans to spend 240 million dollars on water and power in the current year.

Very few novel ideas have taken hold, except in agriculture.

Ideas for towing iceber from the south pole, ferry water from New Zealand to Brazil in redundant oil tanks or tankers on their return journeys remain only vague plans.

Another idea which has gained acceptance is damming the Gulf between Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

This idea, put forward by Moroccan professor three years ago, would create a vast lake between Qatar and the mainland.

Gulf rulers such as U President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, who drea of turning the desert green, investing generously in experiments involving novel forms irrigation.

Drip-irrigation, where ev plant is fed separately, by ponc farming, where no soil used, and other American French-inspired methods arid land farming are being perimented with extensively the Gulf States.

But with vegetables produ at these farms costing three four times their imported counterparts, these are still unomic.

Ethiopia's two marxist parties wage bloody power struggle for leadership

ADDIS ABABA, March 7 (R). — Strife is increasing in this Ethiopian capital as pro-and anti-government factions vent their political differences in bloody killings.

Estimates from informed sources — there are no published figures — say that around 200 people may have been killed in the streets or in their homes since a Feb. 3 gunfight in the grand palace headquarters of the ruling military council.

This left Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam as the hardline Marxist Head of State.

Those murdered include government officials, government opponents — described as "counter-revolutionaries" by the authorities — and apparently innocent civilians.

Informed sources say the vain adversaries are the government-backed marxist All Ethiopian Socialist Movement and the underground marxist Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP). Despite their apparent ideological similarities, the two groups are locked in a savage power struggle, with their main difference being over the speed with which political power should be returned to civilians.

In a series of rallies Colonel Mengistu has sharpened his attacks on the EPRP and other anti-government groups. There has been an increase in violence on both sides.

Master-Sergeant Abraham Gebre-Medhin was killed by security forces outside a city theatre recently. He had been accused of involvement in former Head of State Teferi Bante's alleged "counter-revolutionary plot." The plot ended with

the killing of Brigadier-General Teferi and six other senior members of the military council in the Feb. 3 palace gunfight.

Another typical killing was that of Mr. Ato Tewodros, chairman of the new pro-government All-Ethiopia Trade Union who was shot when gunmen burst into his office. They escaped after wounding another official.

Many shootings seem to have been ignored by police and soldiers: At the scene of one such drama, a soldier told a motorist who had been shot and wounded from another vehicle that he could not risk taking action because the offender appeared to have been in a government car.

The chairman of the 291 Kebeles (local councils) in Addis Ababa has been prime target for assassins. Dozens have been shot at over the past few months.

But now the targets include lesser officials: There Kebele guards, simple men who wander the streets with sticks for a small wage, were found killed, apparently as they slept.

Students, who mainly seem to be anti-government, have also been victims of assassins. Many have been arrested.

Ordinary people are under pressure to turn out for rallies in support of the government, but ceremonies to honour Ato Tewodros, the slain pro-government union leader, and to commemorate thousands of citizens slaughtered 40 years ago by Italian occupation forces, drew only small crowds.

Many people, ranging from

parents of schoolchildren to senior bureaucrats, are clearly frightened by the unpredictable violence.

The people are constantly encouraged by the government to stand up against "counter-revolutionaries" and are promised amunition with which to support the revolution.

When Master-Sergeant Abraham and three of his colleagues had their photographs published in the official Addis Zemen newspaper as men wanted by the authorities, Ethiopians were urged to take "revolutionary action" against them.

Addressing the rally for Ato Tewodros, a senior member of the ruling council, Major Endale Tessema, said the assassination of what he termed genuine revolutionaries would be avenged by the liquidation of 1,000 reactionaries.

He said the Ethiopian revolution, which began with the toppling of the late Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, was "determined to defeat the white terror of its enemies with a red terror."

Despite the upsurge of activity by the EPRP, analysts do not believe the movement could provide an alternative government because it does not have the backing of the armed forces, which, despite their actions on behalf of the government, have avoided involvement in the ideological dispute.

Meanwhile, the sound of gunfire is heard increasingly in a city which until recently had managed to maintain an appearance of calm throughout two years of violent political troubles.

UN Water Resources Conference offers chance to vent Argentine-Brazil feud over Parana River

BUENOS AIRES, March 7 (R). — A long-standing feud between Argentina and Brazil over rights on the Parana River is likely to be aired at a United Nations conference on water resources in Argentina this month.

The two biggest countries of South America are believed to be engaged in gathering support among other countries in the area for their respective stands during the conference opening in the seaside resort of Mar Del Plata on March 14.

Drank the longest among the world's rivers, the Parana straggles southwards from Brazil and becomes Paraguay's southeast border before cutting through northeast Argentina to flow into the river Plate.

Brazil has built over 20 reservoirs and minor dams on the Parana and tributaries inside its territory, and two years ago started building on it the biggest dam in the world: Itaipu, designed to yield up to 20 million kilowatts.

Itaipu, spanning the Parana at the Brazilian border with Paraguay, is only 17 kms. north of the Argentine border, and Argentina fears its outlet of 580 cubic metres of water per second will hamper its own two hydroelectric dam projects in the area.

The dispute over the Parana River has cooled relations between the two big South American neighbours and prevented a meeting between a Brazilian and an Argentine president for the past five years.

Argentina insists that prior consultation is mandatory for any water works on international rivers. It argues that water resources belong not only to the head stream country but to all the nations the river crosses — an idea known as the "successive course rivers theory."

Brazil refuses to submit its national interests to any other state, but has expressed willingness to supply information on its projects — generally after they have been carried out — and says it is prepared to compensate other states for any damage stemming from its decisions.

The dispute has been through judicial, technical and diplomatic channels during the present decade, with no hint of a settlement in sight.

In 1973, what came to be known as "the bathing trunks war" broke out.

A harsh statement by the Argentine foreign ministry charged Brazil with infringing a bilateral agreement signed in New York in 1972 by not reporting formally that the reservoir of the Itaipu Solteira Dam on the Parana River was filled on April 1, 1973.

The statement bitterly complained that Brazilian Minister Espeito de Freitas Rosende transmitted the news verbatim to the Argentine ambassador on March 18 while "clad in bathing trunks" beside the pool of his residence in Brasilia.

The Brazilian foreign ministry replied that "despite having no obligation to do so, the technical data on the Itaipu Solteira Dam was conveyed to Argentine diplomats."

Furthermore, all this information was widely published by Brazilian newspapers, the Brazilian statement said.

Brazilian diplomats have dismissed apprehension here that their dam up-giver will reduce the flow of the Parana downstream.

"On the contrary, Itaipu Solteira and Itaipu will stabilize the river's flow, and put an end to the alternate droughts and floods hitting Argentine territory," one said.

The issue surfaced again at a meeting of foreign ministers from the five river Plate Basin countries in Brasilia three months ago.

An Argentine spokesman said there: "Itaipu, a joint Paraguayan-Brazilian project approved on the Parana, can seriously hamper Argentina's own joint hydroelectric projects with Paraguay."

"Argentina cannot accept Itaipu as a fait accompli."

They are water towers built by the thirsty inhabitants of this region whose parched sands have produced some of the 20th century's millionaires.

Water is the obsession of desert peoples, and the majority of the Gulf peoples were nomadic tribesmen who roamed the sandy wastes with their herds until oil wealth attracted them and a collection of foreign advisers, workers and fortune hunters to the previously poverty stricken cities.

Billions of dollars have been spent over the past few years on providing "sweet" water to these cities, to the bedouin and their camels, to experimental farms, and to new heavy industries being set up along these once pirate-infested shores.

Paradoxically the few states where water is found are the ones with little or no oil, such as Bahrain, Oman and some of the smaller states of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

But the majority of the water needs of the Gulf come from huge desalination plants which remove the salt and make sea water suitable for drinking.

Even Bahrain, the small island-state believed by some to have been the original garden of Eden, is now running short

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:	9:20 Reportage
6:00 Quran	10:15 Arabic series
6:05 Cartoons	Channel 6:
6:30 Wide world of sports	7:30 News in Hebrew
8:00 News in Arabic	7:45 Varieties
	8:30 The last of the Baskets
Channel 3:	9:20 Rich man poor man
7:30 Arabic series	10:00 News in English
8:30 Arabic series	10:15 Hawaii 5-0

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)

7:00 Morning melodies	15:00 Concert hour
7:30 News	16:00 Old favourites
7:40 News reports	16:30 Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00 Mail bag
12:00 Pop session	17:45 Pop session
13:00 News summary	18:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session	18:05 Arabs in history
14:00 News	18:30 Sing it again
14:10 Radio magazine	19:00 News
14:30 Special feature	19:10 News reports
	19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Amman:	Al Hayat (24636)
		Youssef (51822)
		Irbid:
		Al Haditha
		Zarga:
		Abu Sharekh
		Al Shifa
		Zarga:
		Hisham Hiyasat (82440)
Pharmacies:	Amman:	Taxina (44660)
		Talal (25021)
		Khayam (41541)
		Najah (23039)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	19:40 Beirut (MEA)
7:30 Baghdad (IA)	24:30 Rome (Alitalia)
8:30 Bangkok, Bahrain	Departures:
8:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi	8:00 Beirut
9:30 Kuwait (KAC)	8:30 Baghdad (IA)
10:30 Beirut	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
10:40 Karachi, Kuwait (BA)	10:15 Kuwait (KAC)
11:15 Aleppo, Damascus	10:30 Cairo
12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GA)	11:40 London (BA)
14:10 Agaba (SAA)	12:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
17:00 Cairo	12:00 Agaba (SAA)
17:10 London	13:00 Athens (SAA)
17:15 Paris, Rome	14:45 Damascus (SAA)
17:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt	19:00 Bahrain, Bangkok
18:10 Madrid, Athens	19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi
18:15 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)	21:00 Jeddah
	22:55 Doha, Muscat
	01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)

BBC RADIO

05:00 News; 24 hours	15:00 Radio Newsreel
05:30 Sarah Ward	15:15 Outlook
05:45 The World Today	16:00 News; Commentary
06:00 News; Press Review	16:15 Lord Peter Wimsey; Clouds of Witness
06:30 Folk and Country	16:45 The World Today
07:00 News; 24 hours	17:00 News
07:30 Sarah Ward	17:09 Books and Writers
07:45 Money, Money, Money	17:30 Take One
08:00 News	17:45 Sports Round-up
08:15 Short Story	18:00 News; News about Britain
08:30 Composer and Interpreter	18:15 Radio Newsreel
09:00 News; U.K. Press Review	18:30 Talkabout
09:15 The World Today	19:00 Outlook; News Summary
09:30 Financial News	19:42 Stock Market Report
09:45 Look Ahead	19:45 One Piano, Four Hands
10:15 Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise	20:30 The Pleasure's Yours
11:00 News; News about Britain	21:00 Business and Industry
11:15 A Musician Remembers	21:15 Uster 77
11:30 Sports International	21:30 Farming World
12:00 Radio Newsreel	22:00 News; The World Today
12:15 The Pleasure's Yours	22:25 Financial News
12:45 Sports Round-up	22:35 Aris
13:00 News; 24 hours	22:45 Sports Round-up
14:15 Report on Religion	23:00 News; Commentary
14:30 Talkabout	23:15 Nature Notebook

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	18:00	Special English. News, Feature, Science in the News, News Summary.
03:00 to 06:00 GMT	05:00 and 06:30	Regional and Topics Reports, VOA Current News Summary, 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT: 19:30 An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports 20:00 and interviews, ans- 20:15 Music USA (Jazz).
06:30	18:30	News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses. VOA Magazine, Americana, Science, Cultural, Letters. Special English. News, Music USA (Jazz).
17:00	21:00	VOA World Report News ... newsmakers' voices ... correspondents' reports, ... background features ... media commentaries ... news-analyses.
17:30		Dateline

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 78111
Civil defence rescue	26391-4
Fire headquarters	22968
First aid, fire, police	19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	37111-3
Police headquarters	39141
Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	31111, 37777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41520
British Council	36147-8
French Cultural Centre	37069
Goethe Institute	41595
Soviet Cultural Centre	42328
Amman Municipal Library	36111

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Summitry on trial

The spectacle of bargaining for financial aid that took place at the Afro-Arab foreign ministerial meetings last weekend was not the best kind of stagesetter for cooperation before the Afro-Arab heads of state summit opened in Cairo yesterday. In fact, the entire process was disgraceful. The prolonged argument about how much aid the Arabs would give the Africans was an exercise in shortsighted and rather haphazard vision. It focuses on a matter — cash — that is fleeting, and thus perilous. What if the world discovers tomorrow that water is a better fuel than oil? What happens then to the Afro-Arab cooperation effort if the Arabs suddenly find they have no more spare cash? What if the Arabs refuse to give the Africans a single dollar of aid? Is the summit called off? What if the Arabs decide to give the Africans twenty billion dollars a year (which they could)? Does the summit then blossom into spangled success?

There are common interests among the Arabs and the Africans that are of monumental importance to the future of hundreds of millions of people. There are matters before the world, particularly matters related to international trade, cooperation and developmental efforts, that will largely determine whether coming Arab and African generations of people will live with the minimal standards of health, education, welfare and self-esteem, or whether they will live without these. There are common interests that group Arabs and Africans with hundreds of millions of other developing nations throughout the world. There are processes that have been started — vital global dialogues — that will require all the wisdom, courage, insight and vision that can be mustered among the developing nations of our world. If we have shown that we find it proper to open a summit of Afro-Arab cooperation by bargaining over money, then we have not shown very much at all.

Money alone does not mean real cooperation, and cooperation involves far more than just money. Africans and Arabs have fought far too long and far too hard — and far too similar battles — to denigrate the commonalities of their historical struggles now by a crass process of counting the cash. What of the Arabs who have no spare cash to give? What of Jordanians and Palestinians and Lebanese and Yemenis? What about the larger battles the Arabs and Africans have to fight against the settler-colonial forces of Zionism and racism that have brought us to the point, it seems, where we gather in summitry to argue about money?

When the cash runs out, these questions will remain. If we don't tackle them now, when we have the cash, what will we do when the cash runs out?

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Most of the Jordanian dailies commented on the Afro-Arab summit and its agenda in their editorials.

AL RA'I, under the heading "A balanced dream", says that all developing nations in this part of the world, who have always been let down by the United Nations can dream of a free and peaceful world. The U.N. has always been a gathering of the strong and the weak, while the Afro-Arab meeting is a gathering of equals, who share the same dream of a better future for their people.

The Africans and the Arabs are calling for a new economic system — a new worldwide system that does not name a necktie produced in a developed country as a fair price for a tonne of phosphate produced in a developing country. Arabs and Africans have now decided to use their human and natural resources to back their own progress and development. They have decided to fight for sovereignty over their lands and resources, to stand up against aggression and illegal occupation and to rise one and all against exploitation and racism in an attempt to secure peace and security in the whole world.

They have made their decision, the paper goes on to say, but to reach their goal, they must not believe in miracles. That goal will only be achieved through diligent work, struggle and patience. This will give them the strength to back their interests against those of the industrialised powers, Al Ra'i concludes.

AL SHA'B touches upon the economic and political statements in the agenda. The paper says that the political statement calls for a blockade of all racist regimes, especially the Zionist and Southern African white minority regimes. This in itself, the paper goes on, is a new victory for the Arab nation. The statement thus places Israel and the Zionist movement in the same category as racism, and clarifies the opinion of a vast number of the world's population about the real size of the racist Israeli dwarf.

Al Sha'b then comments on the plan for economic cooperation between the Arabs and the African nations, stating that it was finally agreed that Arab aid to Africa would total \$1.5 billion. But that is not a bargain — the African political statement is not the price for Arab aid. It is cooperation ... a unified stand backing human principles against aggression and racism.

To ensure this, we believe that Arab and African leaders, now meeting for the first time at what we consider a historic gathering, should establish a joint development fund to be financed by the rich countries of Africa and the Arab World. We believe, the paper concludes, that this fund should be started to finance both Arab and African development projects — a step which proves that the spirit of sharing among these people does exist.

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هكذا صنعنا القليل

Saxophones hit Amman scene

By Allan Martin
Special to the Jordan Times

Two concerts will be performed this week -- Tuesday and Thursday -- in the British Council to present to the Jordanian public a unique saxophone ensemble.

The London Saxophone Quartet, which has been performing professionally for seven years, has virtually pioneered new fields in music. With its relatively short history, the saxophone has managed to achieve ever newer musical circles, the most noteworthy today being jazz, of which the "sax" is certainly the backbone.

The saxophone quartet as a concept is very new. Following the pattern of the traditional ringed quartet, it combines four classes of brass instruments -- all saxophones -- from soprano to alto.

The London Saxophone Quartet is currently touring the Middle East. Their itinerary includes Algeria, Tunisia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq where their music was well received. This is their first appearance in Amman.

The members were all active and experienced well before

the formation of the quartet as free-lance and orchestral performers. One of the members was associated with the bands of such greats as Tom Jones and Tony Bennett.

In their short time as a quartet they have made a tremendous mark on the music world. In order to build their repertoire, Paul Harvey devoted his time to the writing and transcribing of saxophone pieces. As a group they have also organised several recitals on the international level for the development of an entirely new and original repertoire.

They perform selections from a wide range of styles and periods. Their repertoire now includes 10th century pieces, classical, chamber music, jazz, avant-garde and several original compositions.

Their visit to Jordan is in cooperation with the Friends of Children's Theatre. Performances will begin at 8:00.

Most of the world's great music has been born in the heat of inspiration of those seeking new and better means of expressing themselves. The appearance of the London Saxophone Quartet provides us with a rare and momentous opportunity to view an inspired new movement in music.



The London Saxophone Quartet jazzes up Amman today.

British trade union team leaves Jordan

AMMAN (JNA). — A British trade union Congress delegation Monday left here for Cairo for a three-day official visit to Jordan during which they were received in audience by Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, and other officials. The delegation also visited some Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan.

The head of the delegation had before departure that delegation members had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with trade union activities in Jordan and with Jordan's viewpoint in regard to the Middle East crisis.

He said that the meetings and the visits they paid deepened their belief in the justice of the Arab stand. He said the delegation would raise their voice at trade union meetings and in the British parliament in support of Arab demands.

The delegation issued a statement saying the visit constituted a step towards boosting relations between trade unions in both countries and boosting the chances for a peace based on right and justice, requiring complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The delegation expressed satisfaction over the progress Jordan has made in economic, social and development fields.

MARCH 25 OPENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

AMMAN. — The Higher Committee for King Hussein's Silver Jubilee decided at a meeting Sunday chaired by acting Prime Minister Dr. Al Majali that the prime minister will issue a statement on the evening of March 25 proclaiming the start of celebrations for the jubilee.

On the morning of March 26 the Higher Committee will present the jubilee flag to His Majesty the King at a public rally. The King will then hand the flag to a Jordanian boy and girl to raise it in the Raghdan Palace courtyard.

Jubilee flags will also fly over ministries and other government and public buildings until the end of the year.

The Mayor of Amman, Ma'an Abu Nuwwar, was appointed to supervise the largest of the celebrations, on August 11, at the Amman International Stadium.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, meets in Amman Monday with the Romanian Ambassador to Jordan to convey the sympathy of the Jordanian people to those who have suffered the disaster of the earthquake in Romania. (JNA photo).

2nd satellite station to be built in Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies). — International companies will soon be invited to bid for building a second satellite monitoring station in Jordan, the Communications Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said here Monday.

He told a press conference that tenders for the new station, expected to cost \$4.5 million, would be made later this month.

Jordan already has a Japanese-built earth satellite station near Baqa'a refugee camp about 16 kms. northwest of Amman.

Built in 1971, it cost \$500,000. Mr. Al Rawabdeh also said that the Telecommunications Corporation is now adopting a policy that will ease the telephone communications crisis and rectify certain mistakes, pending a radical solution.

The minister of communications spoke at three mobile automatic exchanges -- each containing 1,000 numbers -- to be installed at Jabal Amman, Mahatta and Ramtha. They will become operational between May and September.

ITU head here discusses Arab telecomms. unit

AMMAN (JNA). — The Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Mohammed Meely, arrived in Amman by road from Damascus Monday on a two-day visit to Jordan. He is accompanied by Mr. Burgman, Chief of the union's technical services for Europe and the Middle East. During his stay, Mr. Meely will meet with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and hold talks with the ministers of communications and information on matters connected with Radio, Television and Telecommunications.

He said his visit to Jordan aims at promotion of cooperation between Jordan and the ITU in all fields. He also said that during his tour, which will cover a number of Arab states, he will discuss the possible establishment of a regional training centre in the Arab World, which would be equivalent to a technical university specialised in telecommunications affairs at all levels. It would aim to graduate engineers and technicians who would be able to operate the latest communications equipment.

The statement attacked Iraqi rulers, charging that "the main aim of imperialism and Zionism is to keep that country, with its manpower and material resources, away from the confrontation with Zionism and imperialism."

Through our knowledge of the nature of the Zionist enemy, its expansionist ambitions, its arrogance and intransigence, we realise that the achievement of a just peace in the Arab region is still remote, particularly as imperialism continues to offer unlimited military and material aid to the Zionist enemy," the statement said.

Government participates in 21 companies

AMMAN (JNA). — The government is presently participating in the capital of 21 industrial companies, which produce different kinds of industrial and food commodities, sources at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce revealed Monday.

The sources said that the government had adopted a policy of participating in the capital of national industrial companies in certain clear-cut cases: If a firm relies on local raw materials; if it is too big for the private sector to bear the cost of setting it up; and if its production is essential for all sectors of the population, such as petroleum, electricity, fertilisers, vegetable oil, bakeries and mining industries.

Khleifawi states to Al Ra'i Israel's delaying tactics endanger Geneva talks

Syria's Prime Minister Maj-Gen. Abdul Rahman Khleifawi charged that Israel was adopting delaying tactics to continue its occupation of Arab territories.

"Facts have shown that Israel seizes every opportunity to adopt delaying tactics and

a policy of procrastination in order to continue its occupation of Arab territories. It also denies Palestinian rights," he stated in an interview published by Al Ra'i Monday.

Maj-Gen. Khleifawi said such an attitude could create dangers that might threaten the success of the Geneva talks.

He further stated that all the parties to the Middle East conflict were in agreement that the Geneva peace conference should resume before the end of the year.

The Arab position was now clearer than ever and could hardly be rejected by other powers, he added.

Syrian Baathists mark revolution anniversary

DAMASCUS, March 7 (R). — Syria's ruling Baath Party said tonight that the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East was still remote and that Israel was receiving unlimited military and financial aid.

In a statement marking the 14th anniversary of the March 8 revolution which brought the Baath to power, the party's pan-Arab Leadership called for closer Arab solidarity and support and aid for the Arab states confronting Israel.

"Through our knowledge of the nature of the Zionist enemy, its expansionist ambitions, its arrogance and intransigence, we realise that the achievement of a just peace in the Arab region is still remote, particularly as imperialism continues to offer unlimited military and material aid to the Zionist enemy," the statement said.

The statement attacked Iraqi rulers, charging that "the main aim of imperialism and Zionism is to keep that country, with its manpower and material resources, away from the confrontation with Zionism and imperialism."

Minister inspects Aqaba housing

AQABA (JNA). — The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Ibrahim Ayoub, Monday inspected the Aqaba housing scheme which is now being constructed. It consists of 700 apartments and other units that can accommodate a total of some 1,500 labourers.

The project is expected to be completed early next year.

Mr. Ayoub, who was accompanied by his under secretary and the director general of the Housing Corporation, will make an inspection tour Tuesday to Wadi Rum, Gharaad, Bir Madkour, Rahma and the Dissi area in the Ma'an governorate.

Agriculture official visits experimental station

AMMAN (JNA). — The Minister of Agriculture, Salah Juma'a, Monday accompanied the Director General of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Dr. Mohammed Muhib Zaki, on a visit to the agricultural experimental station at Wadi Al Dheil. Dr. Zaki toured the station and was briefed on its services to farmers and its studies and research on soil, vegetables and gardening.

The station comprises some 450 dunums of salinity-flushed land planted with cereals and fruit trees. Dr. Zaki also visited a JD 2 million dairy project, which is being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture. It houses 413 Dutch cows, whose daily yield amounts to three tonnes of milk.

Mr. Juma'a and Dr. Zaki later visited a private farm in the area.

What's Going On

A film entitled "Trota"; 8:00 p.m., at the Goethe Institute, Jabal Amman.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
German mark	139.4	139.8
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	130.8	131.2
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.6	37.8
Saudi riyal	94.0	94.5
Lebanese pound	110.2	111.1
Syrian pound	82.1	82.5
Iraqi dinar	940.0	945.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,150.0	1,158.0
Egyptian pound	462.0	475.0
Libyan dinar	800.0	820.0
UAE dirham	84.8	85.8

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Australia takes soft stand on Indonesian occupation of East Timor

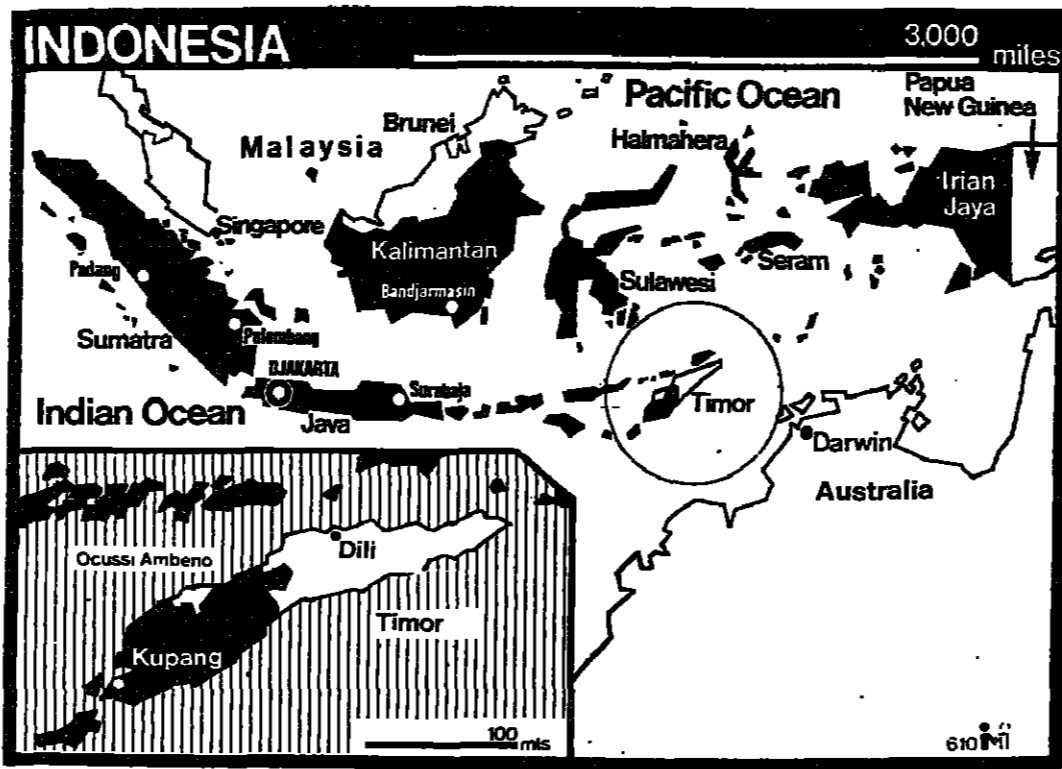
On April 23, 1976 the U.N. Security Council adopted a 12-0 resolution calling on Indonesia to withdraw its forces from East Timor and repeating its demand for political self-determination of the territory's people. Only the U.S. and Japan abstained in the voting.

In November the same year, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution rejecting the claim that East Timor is a part of Indonesia. It called on the Suharto government to withdraw Indonesian troops from the territory.

The voting was 61-18, with 49 abstentions, including Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

While the Australian government continues to soft-pedal the issue, for fear of embarrassing the government, the resistance mounted by the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor (Fretilin) has found strong support from three Asian communist nations -- China, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Should Australia treat the freedom struggle of the East Timorese as a non-issue? Following is an interview with Chris Santos, the Fretilin 'voice' in Australia.



East Timorese children being trained in the use of arms at a fretilin training camp.

By Maurice Perera

MELBOURNE, (Gemin) — The dark, languid eyes sparkle for a moment. "Yes, we'll win our struggle in East Timor, and I hope it won't be long," says Chris Santos. "Because it will be hard for us -- with all the reconstruction and suffering -- there are many things for us to do there."

And then the eyes sadden, the voice falters ... almost begging the world to take notice of the freedom struggle of the East Timorese, and do something about it.

Chris Santos is East Timor's Fretilin "representative" in Australia. He is 29, a "journalist by profession", but had seen much of the action in East Timor fighting the forces of the Democratic Union of Timor -- once coalition partners, but which Chris says represented the continuance of colonialism.

"Fretilin", he explains, "stands for the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor. It is revolutionary in outlook, but the word revolutionary stands for the front's commitment to revolutionise the country's old colonial structure."

"It seeks to modify, transform and revolutionise the old structures which were inherited from 500 years of colonialism. But we are not terrorists."

Just over one year ago a Red Cross radio in Darwin picked up this frantic message from East Timor:

"The Indonesians have invaded ... their soldiers are in Dili. This is an appeal for international help. We appeal to the Australian people. Please help us ... please." The day -- Sunday, December 7, 1976. A flurry of activity followed. Re-

fugee and relief programmes got underway. But on policy matters, the Australian government vacillated.

Meanwhile, Indonesia hurled its military might on the ill-equipped East Timorese and soon had a firm grip on the island, declaring the eastern sector its 27th province.

The freedom struggle and the suffering of East Timorese, allegedly at the hands of Indonesian soldiers, failed to move the men in power in Canberra. And Indonesia continues to ignore a United Nations resolution urging it to withdraw its forces from the territory and repeating its demand for political self-determination for the East Timorese.

Now, some 60,000 deaths later (some estimates put it at more than 100,000) and a growing scandal over the deaths of five Australian newsmen in October 1975, Timor is again on the boil, following an Australian public servant's claim of new atrocities on the island.

James Hunn, a former Consul in East Timor, now a Research Director in Canberra, has revealed details of the execution of 59 villagers allegedly by Indonesian soldiers. He also spoke of how an Australian journalist was shot while speaking into a tape-recorder.

Gordon Bryant, a former Minister in Gough Whitlam's Labour government, has made similar charges. Bryant, who with Dunn, interviewed several Timorese refugees in Portugal says:

"There are serious charges to be answered by the Indonesians -- there is a prima facie case."

The Premier of the state of

Victoria, Dick Hamer, has joined the chorus of demands for a fresh inquiry into the killings, particularly the deaths of the five Australian newsmen in Balibo.

The newsmen -- Greg Shackleton, 29, Gary Cunningham, 27, Tony Stewart, 20, Malcolm Rennie, 28, and Brian Peters, 29 -- were killed while covering the Indonesian invasion of East Timor for Australian television.

Already the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Adam Malik, has described the new allegations as old hat. Whether the Fraser government, which has already backed down on its original tough stand on the Timor issue to prevent any embarrassment to the Indonesian government, would risk getting into a new wrangle remains to be seen.

The Australian government, according to Chris Santos, refuses to recognise the Fretilin.

"We have been trying to see Australian government officials, but they refuse us all the time," he says.

Santos, whose wife and two children were allowed to enter Australia as refugees, holds only a temporary visa that expires in April this year.

He claims he applied for a residence visa last year, but was only allowed a temporary visa. He says he will apply again in March before the current visa expires, but he is not particularly optimistic of being granted one.

"I am afraid politicians sometimes forget the humanitarian grounds involved in such issues. They may decide they don't want me here," he says.

"They see me as an enemy, trying to embarrass them, and that's not so. All I want to do is just talk to them and try win their friendship."

"We have not been asking Australia for any sort of political support. Our main request to them is to put pressure on the Indonesian government to

allow the International Red Cross to handle relief operations.

"But the relief aid continues to be handled by the Indonesian Red Cross -- and that goes to the Timorese in Indonesian-held areas," he says.

But Chris Santos is not giving up.

"I am not alone in my struggle ... many Australians are supporting us in our cause," he says. A recent poll conducted in Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock's electorate seems to prove his point.

The poll in Kooyong, an affluent suburb in the state of Victoria, by Dr. Peter Lynch, a committee member of the Kooyong Committee for Timor, found that more than half of the 2,380 people interviewed were opposed to the Indonesian takeover in East Timor. Dr. Lynch claimed that 55.6 per cent of those interviewed had signed a petition to Peacock.

The petition urges Mr. Peacock to:

-- Continue to ensure that Australia in no circumstances recognises the Indonesian forced annexation of East Timor;

-- Cease all military aid to Indonesia until such time as its forces are withdrawn from East Timor;

-- Take initiatives to ensure that the United Nations resolutions of East Timor are carried out.

The Fretilin office in Drummond St., Carlton, Victoria, is barely furnished. A table, a few chairs, a red telephone and numerous files stacked against the walls. The walls are bare, just a map of Timor and a poster of a Fretilin freedom fighter. No photographs of Lenin, Mao Tse Tung, Ho Chi Minh or even Che Guevara.

"No, I am no Marxist, I'm more an idealist," he says. "There are certain good things in all ideologies. I pick up what is good and try and follow those things," he says.

"Perhaps you can say I am close to Che Guevara, because he was also an idealist. I was only 15 when my brother and I first met Che in Paris. I was so impressed. He gave us a box of cigars and wanted us to open it for the revolution in Portugal. But the revolution came and went. Perhaps we'll

wait for the next revolution.

"Yes, I always feel close to Che. He was not a Cuban, but he fought for Cuba's liberation. I am fighting for the liberation of East Timor, but I was born in Portugal and I was a Portuguese soldier."

But Santos hastens to add: "No, I am not comparing myself with Che ... I just admire him, he's a fine man."

Cristovao Santos, that's his real name, was born in Southern Portugal on November 11, 1947. His father was a telephone technician. The youngest of three sons, Chris was educated in Portugal but missed university because "in Salazar's Portugal universities were only for the rich."

He became a journalist and began as a freelance sporting writer and later moved to the Lisbon daily Diaro De Lisbon. Early in 1969 he was called up for military service and was posted to Timor.

He moved freely with the East Timorese people and soon began to feel deeply for them. Some 500 years of colonial rule had reduced the East Timorese to a hopelessly desperate people. They needed help and guidance.

Chris decided to throw in his lot with them in their struggle for independence. So, when he finished his military service he decided to make East Timor his home. He joined the government printery in Dili where he rose to become its director.

Chris joined the Fretilin and was soon back on the battle lines, this time fighting the UDI. But on August 11, 1975, UDI forces staged a coup and the Fretilin retreated to the hills. Just nine days later, the Fretilin staged a counter coup and bitter fighting raged. On September 3, his Timorese wife and two children joined the stream of refugees bound for Australia. But Santos stayed on in Dili.

When the Fretilin finally defeated the UDI and peace came to East Timor, Santos left Dili to visit his family in Australia. He was expected back in Timor after Christmas. But that was not to be. Because the Indonesian invasion followed and Fretilin soldiers were once again on the run.

Chris then decided to remain in Melbourne, serving the Front as its lone voice in Australia. The fighting goes on some 3750 km northwest of Melbourne ... but Chris Santos, though not on the front line, is still very much with his people. "Timor will only talk," he muses. "I only hope somebody does something soon."



Chris Santos : Fretilin's voice in Australia.

The ACP Sugar Group heads for tough negotiations with Europe

The 19 sugar-producing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific which are associated with the European Economic Community through the Lome Convention are about to embark on a tough fight in their 1977-78 negotiations. They are far from happy at the way the Convention is working. The political will to make it work may be there, but snags arise in the technical working out of that will.

stored and, in that case, a levy was applicable. However, can sugar producers shipped direct to refiners in Europe without the necessity of storage.

Conference members appeared annoyed by the EEC suggestion of a storage levy and move to take the ACP's excess sugar -- known as Quota sugar -- into account in fixing its new price. This would have the effect of depressing the over price and St. John criticised as "an illegitimate attempt to introduce new criteria for pricing."

The EEC Commission in Brussels has recently prepared new proposals for arriving at the amount to be paid for ACP sugar; but these were also rejected at the Bridgetown meeting since, according to St. John, they were "inconsistent with the principles set out in the treaty."

The ACP's basic stand on price is that it must be within the range of the price the EEC pays to its own beet farmers for their sugar. The new proposals would result in a price far short of that.

King foresaw a "difficult and challenging year" for the ACP countries. They will be negotiating at a time when the world price of the commodity is low and when all indications are that production will again exceed demand.

"I don't think we should be confused by the level of the world price, however," he said. "The Lome Convention is the first positive mechanism the world seeks to approach a new world economic order in a tangible way and its sugar protocol gives expression to that spirit."

"We are approaching the matter in a spirit of give-and-take and negotiating not so much on strictly commercial terms but on the guidelines set out in Lome."

So where does the problem lie? King said the ACP group has always sensed a strong political will on the part of EEC member countries to honour the Lome Convention. It was a document of which Europe was "very proud". The problem arises when that political will is handed down to officials in Brussels for technical interpretation.

BARBADOS, (Gemin) — Sugar producing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific-known as the ACP group -- have reached complete unanimity on their approach to upcoming price negotiations with the European Economic Community for the year 1977-78.

After a ministerial conference of the 19 concerned countries here, there was also consensus on one point. Everyone was agreed that the negotiations this year would be, in the words of the conference chairman, Barbados' Trade Minister Bernard St. John, "a tough fight".

The bargaining between the EEC and the ACP will be carried out under the Lome Convention, the treaty between the two groups signed in February 1975, and hailed at the time as a major advance in economic relationships between the developed and the developing world.

Under the terms of the Convention, guaranteed quotas were allotted to individual ACP countries which gave them collectively a market of just over 1.2 million metric tons in Europe annually.

The price is subject to annual review at bilateral negotiations and it is these negotiations that the ACP sugar producers are now preparing for.

Throughout the three days of deliberations here, there was a general air of suspicion about the EEC's attitude towards the Lome Convention.

St. John, in his opening address, said the developing countries were now beginning to question the value of the Convention. He told delegates: "Attendances at conferences, nicely worded resolutions and signing of conventions will not

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هكذا صنعنا اتصل

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES E. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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rather vulnerable. South leads.

NORTH
♠ 10 6
♥ 8 3
♦ K Q 8 7 4
♣ J 7 6 2

EAST
♠ K 7 5
♥ Q 10 9 6 2
♦ J 9 5 3 2
♣ A Q 9 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 9 8 2
♥ A J 5
♦ A 10 6
♣ K

West bidding: 1♠ West North East
Pass 1NT 2♥
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♣.

However, his line of play courted disaster. From the bidding, it was possible for East to be void in diamonds since he didn't

have much in the way of high cards. Also, East almost surely had the ace of clubs for his two-level overcall. Since declarer could afford

to lose a trick in each suit except for diamonds, he should have planned his play to keep West, the potential

danger hand, off play as long as possible without ever touching diamonds.

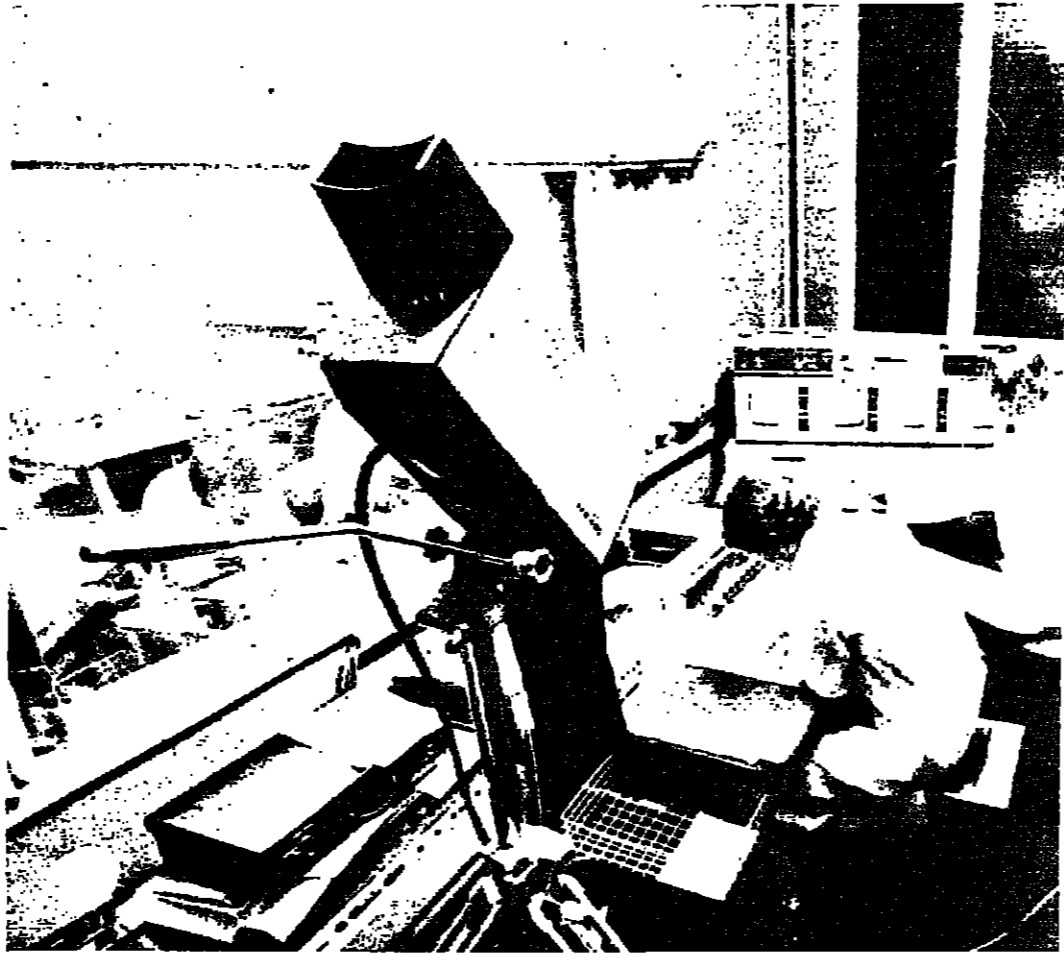
Murphy's Law assures us that if something bad can happen, it will. However, we can often take a simple step that will reduce the possibilities of disaster being us.

North had just enough to respond to South's opening 1♠. After East interposed a bid of two hearts, South tried to take the strain off his partner by bidding what he thought he could make. West led a low heart and declarer won the queen with a trump. He was eager to take trump finesse, so he led a diamond to dummy. Unfortunately, East ruffed, returned a heart to West's hand and scored a second trump trick. Then he cashed the ace of clubs to insure a no-trick defeat. To be sure, declarer suffered a fate most cruel when the diamonds broke 5-0.

This could have been accomplished quite simply—declarer should have allowed East's queen of hearts to hold the first trick. Assume

East continues a heart. Declarer wins and ruffs his remaining heart in dummy—a safe step since West led a low heart and followed with a higher heart to the second trick. Next, declarer plays a trump to the ace and continues with the queen of trumps. That protects against the possibility that West has the king of trumps and East only a doubleton. There is no way the declarer can get more than three tricks.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



FEAR -- Most children are afraid of the doctor, some so much so that treatment proves ineffective. A research project has been launched at Eppendorf University Hospital in Hamburg, with a view to finding out why and to fostering confidence between children and the man or woman with the stethoscope. Three concealed cameras film children during consultation and footage is evaluated and made up into training films in a cutting room with five monitor screens. Children have electrodes attached to their bodies to register anxiety they may not otherwise betray. Parents and children are also given questionnaires to answer after the " ordeal " is over.

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be thoughtful of others now and make sure you do nothing that can upset or disturb any present relationship. You have all sorts of urges to call those about you to account for conditions you do not like, but remember you are just as much at fault as they.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Know what is expected of you by others and try to please them. Be willing to clear up quarrels amicably. Reconcile with one who means much to you in a personal way. Avoid going off on a tangent.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't argue with a fellow worker or there could be serious trouble. Make sure you keep promises you have made and gain goodwill.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) In your desire to have a good time be careful you do not hurt or alienate others. Put useful talents to work and get good results. Avoid one who thinks negatively.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A bothersome situation is best not handled today when you are feeling so irate. Cool off first. A gentle attitude toward a loved one gets a problem settled satisfactorily, though.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) If you listen to what partners have to say and are not forceful with them, you can have fine accord in the future. Speak quietly. Drive carefully since others are apt to be jittery today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study finances and obligations and know how better to handle them and come out of the red. Listen to what an expert has to suggest, also. Invest wisely and safely. Relax tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study exactly how you want your life to trend in the future and then get rid of the unwanted and replace with the helpful. Show courtesy toward everyone and you get good results. Avoid one who is detrimental to your best interests.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Find the right way to handle any personal problems you may have and they are soon cleared up. Think objectively. Avoid any recreation that could get you into trouble.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Not a good time to be with friends you like, but fine for setting up appointments for the near future with them. Make sure you know what you want before you go ahead with plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Attend to civic tasks and they are soon behind you. Be conscientious about handling some career matter. Improve social life and be with congenials only.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You want to get away from tiresome duties, but be careful you do not get into something unsavory because you are tired. New contacts could prove to be unsatisfactory. Avoid a troublemaker.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your intuition is not good today, so use only good judgment and make only right changes with higher-ups. Take it easy with a loved one who may be in a bad mood. Take no chances with credit.

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LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

HAWAH 5-0:
TARGET A COP
A retired G.I. back from Vietnam specialises in killing Hawaii cops until McGarrett arrests him.

RICH MAN POOR MAN:
CHAPTER 10
Rudy finds his nephew Wesley but his brother Tom returns to the U.S. and takes him with him to France. Martial trouble starts between Rudy and Julie.

PEANUTS

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles. Letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

RAPPE
[Grid]

ALLIC
[Grid]

MINSAB
[Grid]

REFER
[Grid]

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: **ALBUM BRINY RARELY MAINLY**
Answer: As a "male animal," he was, rather sheepish — **ARAM**

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CROSS

23. Stag
24. Style of hairdo
25. Blue grass
26. Goddess of plenty
27. Sawed
28. Granite
29. Apple or lemon
30. Corn cakes
31. List
32. Dismounted
33. Current fashion
34. Wooden core
35. Essential point
36. Barbarian
37. Arrest
38. Moderate

CRATES BARES
AERATE OPERA
STUPID ASPIC
HEM OR BEEN

SAIVA PRETTY
AURATE ASSES
IRA EXIST
INE ELA AME
ACIDS IBERIA
BLADE ALLOTS
TENOR DEMOTE

Solution of Sunday's Puzzle

UP
3. Parents
4. Notched
5. Spring
6. South American opossum
7. Raid
8. Yemenite
9. Sora
10. Mary Baker
11. Morse
12. Beat soundly
13. Which
14. Chance
15. Inhale
16. Championship flag
17. United
18. Business getters
19. Flattery
20. Seal
21. Sealing compound
22. Feather
23. Commonplace
24. Appellation of Athens
25. Prejudice
26. Expedition
27. Crop
28. Tropical tree

DOWN
1. Fresh-water fish
2. Advanced years

Time 30 min. AP Newsfeatures 3-8

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THE FLINTSTONES

MUTL AND JEFF

Zimbabwe front to be supplied with anti-aircraft weapons, says leader

LUSAKA, Zambia, March 7 (AFP). — Rhodesian Nationalist guerrillas grouped in the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZiPA) have won the battle on the ground and now intend to obtain sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons "to fight the rebels in the air," Mr. Robert Mugabe, joint leader of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front said here today.

Mr. Mugabe, who shares power with Mr. Joshua Nkomo

in the front, acted as ZiPA spokesman at the British-convened Geneva talks on Rhodesia last year.

Rhodesia was now facing "economic disaster" and Rhodesian troops were no longer able to patrol on foot, Mr. Mugabe claimed. He was speaking during a stopover here on route to Maputo, Mozambique, after arriving from Lomé, Togo, where he attended

the Organisation of African Unity Ministerial Council last week.

Mr. Mugabe said the Patriotic Front would discuss with ZiPA commanders a new strategy which would require the use of anti-aircraft weapons against Rhodesian air superiority.

The former leader of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), now integrated into the Patriotic Front, also said the front was reluctant to resume the Geneva talks.

The talks were a waste of time and irrelevant to the armed struggle, Mr. Mugabe said.

He went on: "I sincerely believe that there is no basis for the resumption of the Geneva conference. Any talks to be held must be aimed at the full transfer of political and military power to the black majority."

Mr. Mugabe added that Britain was not yet prepared to accept the front's proposals and had actually given the impression that it wanted to formulate proposals it could sell to Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith.

The nationalist leader said the Geneva conference had concentrated on irrelevant issues opposed to the armed struggle which the front supported.

Israeli negotiations to sell Kfir jets at "advanced stage", declares aeronautics official

TEL AVIV, March 7 (Agencies). — Negotiations for the sale of Israeli-built Kfir jet fighter-bombers to many Latin American and other countries have reached an "advanced stage", an aeronautics industry spokesman was quoted here today as saying.

The daily Maariv said the spokesman refused to identify the countries interested in buying the Kfir. The United States, which exports the engines to Israel, has vetoed sales to Ecuador.

Maariv said sales could run to several dozen aircraft.

About 500 workers demonstrated outside the U.S. Embassy here today, saying the veto was "a mortal blow to Israel's aeronautics industry" which would boost unemployment.

They handed in a letter to President Carter asking him to reconsider.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, now visiting the U.S., is expected to bring up the Kfir issue during his talks in Washington.

An industry spokesman meanwhile said that Kfir sales could net \$1,500 million, more than a third of which would go to the United States.

Israel reportedly backs Ethiopia against Eritreans

BEIRUT, March 7 (R). — An Eritrean guerrilla group spokesman said here today that Israel is stepping up military and technical aid to Ethiopia to help it crush the Eritrean rebellion.

Mr. Osman Sabbe of the Eritrean Liberation Front-People's Liberation Forces (ELF-LFF), told a news conference that although the U.S. had suspended military aid to Ethiopia, "Israel is stepping up its military and technical aid to the Ethiopian regime with the aim of maintaining its domination of the Eritrean coast and securing its interests in the Straits of Bab Al Mandab."

He said Israel was building a base on Fatma Island, about 50 kms. north of the Straits of

Bab Al Mandab, which links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

Mr. Sabbe said most of the Eritrean guerrillas' arms came from Arab states, chiefly from Syria and Iraq, which gave military support in 1976 and this year.

Mr. Sabbe said there was an international struggle for power in the Red Sea basin.

"Some of the Arab states are driven to support Ethiopia, which puts them in line with Israel," he said.

Libya has good relations with the Marxist rulers in Addis Ababa, and both countries have

been accused by President far Nimeiri of interfering in Sudan, one of the Arab states of the Eritrean sector.

Mr. Sabbe also said that Eritreans have asked Cuba for help in moving part of their forces from Angola to Ethiopia. He gave no details of the source of his information.

Mr. Sabbe said the Arab summit conference opened today in Cairo at which Eritreans immediately and Ethiopia to withdraw from the big power.

Britain doesn't want Amin at Commonwealth conference

LONDON, March 7 (AFP). — Britain plans to send a senior government official on a tour of Commonwealth countries in coming weeks to discuss possible ways of preventing Ugandan President Idi Amin coming here for the Commonwealth prime ministers' conference in June, an informed source said today.

The envoy's official job would be to discuss the conference's agenda with a view to eliminating procedural problems over questions such as Rhodesia, the source said.

Lord Thomson, formerly minister of commonwealth relations under Harold Wilson's

premiership might be chosen for the job, the source said. Lord Thomson is a former member of the European Commission.

Official sources would not confirm Lord Thomson's appointment but observers pointed to the good relations he has with Commonwealth leaders and his firm view on Rhodesia.

Britain's position regarding President Amin is extremely difficult, observers say, since any unilateral move by Britain to keep the Ugandan leader away from London could be expected to draw unfavourable reactions from the rest of the Commonwealth, especially from African members.

Swedish M.P.s have hope for M.E. peace

TEL AVIV, March 7 (R). — A group of Swedish members of parliament said today they were convinced that 1977 would show significant progress for peace in the Middle East.

"We have all agreed on this," Mrs. Inger Lindquist, a member

of the Moderate Party, said at the end of their weeklong visit to Israel.

"We are hopeful for peace in 1977 because we found that Israel was open-minded, willing to compromise and had no fixed preconditions about negotiations," she added.

The M.P.s, who included eight members of the Liberal Social Democratic, Centre and Moderate Parties, were received by Israeli President Ephraim Katzir, met Foreign Ministry officials and had talks with Knesset members of various Israeli parties.

Habash in interview: Rejection Front will break with PLO if Palestinian mini-state is created

By Bernd Debusmann

CAIRO, March 7 (R). — The four commando organisations of the Palestinian Rejection Front will continue fighting for the destruction of Israel even if the Palestinians succeed in establishing a mini-state of their own.

This was made clear by guerrilla leader George Habash in an interview with Reuters as preparations for the long-delayed meeting here of the Palestine National Council (PNC) — the Palestinian parliament-in-exile — were drawing to an end.

At the meeting, due to open on March 12, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat and other moderates are expected to argue in favour of attending a reconvened Geneva Middle East peace conference and to press for the establishment of a Palestinian mini-state alongside Israel.

If such a decision were taken by the PNC, Dr. Habash said, his Popular Front for the Libe-

ration of Palestine (PFLP) and the three other Rejection Front groups would break away from the PLO and go it alone.

Asked if the PFLP contemplated a return to the hijackings and spectacular acts of violence it staged in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Habash said the organisation had firmly decided to stop such operations and had no intention of resuming them even if a mini-state were created.

"Why not go on fighting Israel from the new boundaries?" he asked.

But Dr. Habash predicted that other groups would resort to hijacking and violence outside the Middle East if the "doves" won the day in Cairo.

He declined to specify which organisations he thought would take to the gun.

The Iraqi-backed rejection front is led by the PFLP and embraces the smaller Arab Liberation Front, the PFLP General Command, and the Popular Struggle Front. All four are opposed to any peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict and insist on the establishment of a secular state in all of former mandate Palestine.

This concept which implies the disappearance of Israel, a state based on religion, is enshrined in the Palestine National Charter. Israel has said it would refuse to believe that opinion in the PLO had swung to moderation unless the charter were changed.

Dr. Habash implied that the bulk of Rejection Front fighters now remaining in Lebanon would be withdrawn to infiltrate into Israel and step up actions against the government there. "We have to be in Galilee, in Gaza, in the West Bank, in south Lebanon, in the Golan. We have to infiltrate all our Palestinian fighters," Dr. Habash said.

"We want to put all our fighters into Palestine," he added. Dr. Habash disagrees with Israel's assessment of the PFLP as a "gang of terrorists and murderers."

"We believe that we are the real peace forces in this part of the world," he said.

Spain legalises gambling

MADRID, March 7 (R). — Spain today legalised gambling casinos after more than 50 years, to boost tourism and the sagging economy. The step was expected to draw about \$500 million a year from abroad and help reduce the country's big balance of payments deficit.

A royal decree recognised that the ban imposed in 1824

on those games of chance than the state-run lottery, ball pools and a lottery blind had failed to stop playing. The decree said that the ban had "frequently failed to attain its moral objectives, led to situations of tolerance, generalised clandestine gambling, with more real damage than those which it had to avert."

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Concorde's landing rights at New York airport are now summit issue, says French minister

PARIS, March 7 (AFP). — The use of New York's Kennedy Airport by the Anglo-French supersonic Concorde has become a summit issue, the French Transport Secretary Marcel Cavaille said after discussion here today with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

He refused to speculate on French reaction if New York Port Authority rejects the 16-month trial period for Concorde which the U.S. federal government has recommended.

The authority is due to announce its decision on Thursday. The use of Kennedy Airport is regarded as vital to Concorde's future.

Today's hour-long meeting was also attended by the mayor of Toulouse, the southern city where the French side of the joint aeronautical venture is based. Mayor Pierre Baudis later told journalists: "It is inconceivable that the 16-month period be refused." It would create "a delicate situation" for employment in Toulouse he said.

Mr. Cavaille said the president recalled that he had twice telephoned President Jimmy Carter to discuss Concorde, and added "the problem is at the summit. All has been done so the highest American authorities are aware of the importance France attaches to the decision" (of the port authority).

Mr. Carter reminded a caller during his nationwide broadcast telephone-in Saturday that the port authority was independent and said the future of Concorde was "not in my control at all."

Air France at present runs a supersonic Paris-Rio de Janeiro service and British Airways serves the Gulf from London. Mr. Cavaille said the two countries "fought together" to win the landing rights in New York which could give the controversial Concorde project the kiss of life. Britain has refused to go on with production until more firm export orders come in.

Mr. Cavaille pointed out that

British Premier James Callaghan flies to Washington aboard Concorde tomorrow for talks with Mr. Carter.

In London today, a Foreign Office spokesman said "our views are the same as those of the French."

Foreign Secretary David Owen had discussed Mr. Callaghan's trip with the U.S. charge d'affaires and the spokesman said American officials were aware that Britain regarded that the port authority's decision as "major political and economic importance."

In Brussels, the EEC Commissioner for Industrial Affairs, Etienne Davignon, said "the Concorde situation is unpleasant."

But he said the EEC as such had made no representations to the U.S. authorities.

French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud said yesterday that French public opinion will not understand if New York's Port Authority refuses to grant the Concorde landing rights at Kennedy Airport.

"Public opinion would not understand why the Port Authority of New York did not conform to the federal decision and why the federal government was not able to have this decision implemented."

If Concorde was rebuffed at New York, M. de Guiringaud declared, France would seek to obtain landing rights through the American courts. Legal

means existed to obtain the rights, he said.

"We would go before the judicial authorities who, I hope, would take into account our arguments," he said.

M. de Guiringaud was asked whether the French government, by speaking out as it has done recently, had not overplayed its hand. He said he did not believe this had happened.

"It was important to make the responsible authority understand that the arguments of the environmentalists have not managed to convince French public opinion," M. de Guiringaud declared.

He said he was astonished that attempts were being made to bar Concorde because of the noise made by the aircraft. One thousand aircraft landed daily at Kennedy Airport, he said, four additional landings would change nothing."

Asked whether France's decision in January to free Palestinian commando leader Abu Dawud influenced the question of Concorde's landing rights, the French foreign minister said it was important not to exaggerate the impact of the Abu Dawud affair, which touched off world-wide protests.

The question of Concorde's landing rights had been discussed for a long time, he noted. "It is not impossible that some persons were influenced by the Abu Dawud affair. But this is not decisive," he concluded.

Record oil output expected this year, U.S. journal says

TULSA, Oklahoma, March 7 (AFP). — World oil output will probably reach a new record level this year, the magazine Oil and Gas Journal said here.

Production last year rose 7.9 per cent to a new high of 57,300,000 barrels a day, it noted.

Non-Communist output should this year increase 4 or 5 per cent, the magazine said, quoting industry officials here.

This rise would mainly stem from increased extraction by

members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), as well as from the North Sea and Alaska.

The Soviet Union would doubtless maintain its position as the world's leading oil producer, it said, recalling that the U.S. last year dropped back to third position with Saudi Arabia in second place.

Production by Middle East countries was 48 per cent of the non-Communist total.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices edged up a small gain Monday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average gained more than one point. The trading pace was moderate.

The session opened on an upward trend after the publication, last Friday, of an optimistic report on investment intentions by American firms by the "Conference Board", a private organisation of economic research.

Advances outnumbered losers at the close by a 787 to 614 margin. Airlines and computers were down. Among oils, Mobil lost 1/4 at 67.5.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 355.12, a gain of 1.66 points; Transp at 107.74, a gain of 0.51; utilities at 311.22, a gain of 0.38. 17,410,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,190,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market Monday closed quietly mixed. An earlier easier tendency was arrested after the February wholesale index which showed only a moderate rise against the previous figure, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 0.7 at 407.2.

Long-dated government bonds finished 1/4 up, having been that much lower initially. Near-shorts were up to 1/8 easier. Equity leaders ended steady to mixed.

Gold was higher with the bullion price but trading interest waned after the small initial flurry.

Shell finished 6p up on support ahead of results due Thursday. Other oils gained between 3p and 3p apart from B.P. which ended unchanged.

Industrials were mixed and up to 4p eitherway while banks declined between 3p and 7p.

De Beers finished 7p up in front of results due Tuesday while Turned and Newall gained 2p also on expected results.

Price of gold closed in London Monday at \$148.30/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, March 7 (AFP). — Imports by industrial nations rose 15 per cent last year and exports 11 per cent, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported. Their imports came to \$630,340 million and their exports were \$598,480 million. Largest increases in imports were recorded by the United States, West Germany, France, Japan and Canada. The IMF gave no figures for oil countries' imports but it said their exports were up 20 per cent to \$130,700 million. Countries recording the best improvements were Saudi Arabia and Iran. The fund also reported that world monetary reserves rose nearly \$28,000 million last year, account being taken of the fund's 128 members plus Switzerland. The new total at the end of the year was 219,848 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). Reserves of industrial countries rose 9,970 million SDRs to reach 113,482 million. Those of developing countries went up 8,000 million SDRs to 34,825 million. The increase by the oil countries was 7,263 million SDRs to a new figure of 55,528 million. The IMF noted that industrial countries now have only half the total reserves as against two-thirds at the start of this decade.

ABU DHABI, March 7 (R). — Abu Dhabi International Airport will be open for 24 hours a day from March 31, it was announced here today. Since January, the airport has been closed daily for seven hours from midday for repairs to the runway and expansion work. Nineteen international airlines use Abu Dhabi airport.

BRUSSELS, March 7 (AFP). — Sweden and the European Economic Community (EEC) have concluded a long-term "framework agreement" on fishing, it was announced here today. The agreement, concluded last Friday should allow balanced fishing by Sweden and the EEC in zones of mutual interest, the announcement said.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

PARIS, March 7 (AFP). — Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares and French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing had a "working luncheon" at the Elysee Palace here today. Mr. Soares arrived here last night on the first leg of a new European tour pleading the cause of Portugal's membership of the European Economic Community.

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 7 (AFP). — Brazil and Argentina, having rejected all U.S. military aid in protest at criticism of their record on human rights, will turn to Western Europe for arms supplies, military observers said here today.

MANILA, March 7 (AFP). — The Philippine Martial law regime moved today to prevent a renewal of fighting in the Moslem south following the break-up of Tripoli peace talks on ending four years of Moslem rebellion. Reports from Mindanao Island, southern Philippines, said Southern Military Commander Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon and a senior official of the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) were to meet at an undisclosed place today to work out an extended ceasefire agreement.

WEST BERLIN, March 7 (R). — The former U.S. military commandant at Berlin's Spandau Jail appealed to President Jimmy Carter Saturday to release the prison's only inmate, former Nazi leader Rudolf Hess. Col. Eugene Bird told Mr. Carter in a cable that, after Herr Hess' third suicide attempt, a reprieve for the 82-year-old former Nazi "would be regarded in Germany and the entire civilised world as a sign of humanity."

ROME, March 7 (AFP). — Rome University was closed again temporarily today after dozens of several faculties voted concern for the safety of lecturers and other staff following riots on Saturday. The university will remain closed for about five or six days. Entrances to faculties are guarded by the police. Rioting last Saturday night began after several thousand students gathered at the university to protest against a nine-year prison sentence handed down to leftwing militant Fabrizio Panzieri in connection with the murder of a rightwing student a year ago.

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